

C O N F I D E N T I A L

December 14, 1973

MEMORANDUM TO THE FILE

RE: Meeting with Senator Baker on the Evening of 12/13/73.

At the outset of the meeting with Baker and Thompson, Howard said that he had asked to see me because he was convinced that he now knew a lot more about Watergate than I did, thought he would share some of his information with me and asked me if I could help him with his theory. He said he was satisfied that I didn't know what had gone on and that I was the guy who was "set up".

He told me that in all of their interrogation of David Young regarding the Ellsberg matter, Young steadfastly maintained that the Ellsberg break-in was Hunt's idea and that he, Young, had no real idea why the break-in was to take place and further that he had no reason to believe that I was aware of it in advance.

Baker asked me a lot of questions about Bob Bennett. How bright he was, how strong he is, what kind of person he is. Baker said that the Mullen Company was a CIA front, that Hunt's job with the Mullen Company was arranged by Helms personally, (he, Baker, has a copy of Helms' letter "directing" that Hunt be hired) and that Hunt was assigned to the Mullen Company for some specific purpose.

Baker told me of his interview with Martinez who said that there were no patient records in Dr. Fielding's office, that he, Martinez, was very disappointed when they found nothing there, but Hunt on the other hand seemed very pleased and as a matter of fact broke out a bottle of champagne when the three men returned from the job. Martinez says he has participated in 300 or 400 similar CIA operations, that this was clearly a "cover" operation with no intention of ever finding anything.

I told Baker something which I had forgotten until last night, that is that Hunt told me that Helms had given him \$20,000 in cash to pay off all of his medical bills for his daughter.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

2.

Baker asked me about Hunt's family. I said that I thought Dorothy worked for the CIA also and Baker said "yes, of course, she was Hunt's boss". Baker says he has established this from the CIA records.

Baker then traced Bob Bennett's involvement in this, particularly with respect to me since the beginning. The first time that I had Hunt interviewed for a job was while he was still with the CIA. The job was to be on the staff of the Citizens Committee for Peace with Freedom in Vietnam (the Washburn group). Baker advised me this was a Bennett operation; that Bennett knew from December of 1970 that I would recommend Hunt for a position. Baker said that Hunt's invitations to me were by design, that he recruited Barker four months before he came into the White House.

Baker said that he had reason to believe and thought he could prove that many of the press stories about my being involved in the Watergate were leaked by Bennett. He said he had an affidavit that the Newsweek story which came out while I was in Europe came from Bennett and that it was Bennett's "assignment" to nail me with the Watergate.

While Hunt was at the Mullen Company there were some records which indicate that his salary was adjusted to \$37,000 a year because that is what, according to the records, he would be making net if he had remained at the agency. Baker said that there was an arrangement by the Mullen Co and CIA to continue Hunt's pay at the same level he would have been making at the CIA.

Baker reminded me that it was Bob Bennett who called me to say that he had connections to Dita Beard's lawyers and that shortly thereafter Hunt sent me a memo suggesting he go to Denver. Baker said he had further indications that Bob Bennett wrote the Dita Beard memo. He pointed out that the Greenspan operation was conceived by Bennett, ostensibly for the Hughes Tool Company.

He said that they also had evidence that the plan was to be caught at the Watergate, that Hunt had given each of the Cubans their room keys just before they went into the Watergate which led the police back to their rooms and to their notebooks and information. He said McCord is clearly implicated, having turned off the walkie-talkies at the critical moment and having ordered them to continue notwithstanding the removed tape. He said that McCord sent five personal letters to Helms after the break-in of Watergate, all of which Baker has. He said there was another high official who was feeding Bennett Williams information immediately after the break-in.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

3.

Baker asked me if I knew the "big story" that is more earthshaking than anything that has yet come out. He said he couldn't tell me, but that if I knew I would know immediately what he was talking about.

He asked me a lot of questions about Kissinger. David Young has testified that Kissinger didn't put him into the Plumbers, that Ehrlichman made a big thing of getting him and that Kissinger resisted letting him go. Neither Baker or Thompson believe it.

Baker is very, very suspicious about Silbert; believes Silbert had some other role in all of this.

Charles W. Colson

Golson MEMO

CIA PRESS AFTERMATH

1. Fred Thompson reported to me today that Nedzi called Carl Stern of NBC on Friday to tout him off of the Washington Post story. Nedzi said the Post had not reported what he had said accurately and that the story was not what it appeared to be in the Post. As a result, NBC did not use it Friday night, CBS did.
2. Thompson says that the CIA has been frantically working with various Members of Congress, particularly the Oversight group, and that the Nedzi ploy was part of a CIA frantic effort to discourage inquiries.
3. Immediately after the Nedzi story, Thompson called in the CIA legislative liaison who told him that the file Nedzi had seen was a different one than Baker had. Colby later contradicted that by saying Nedzi had seen the same file.
4. Thompson says there is a new "bombshell", that this one is absolutely proven and that Baker intends to make it public in a matter of days. Thompson said it would be helpful to me and is directly related to the Watergate aftermath. Jaworski knows about it and is supposedly calling witnesses in to the Grand Jury which is the first time this issue had gone before the Grand Jury.
5. I told Thompson that I could be included in the Watergate indictment on clemency which he said, based on every shred of testimony they had been given both publicly and in executive session, would be an outrage. He said that he would be happy to go into court with Shapiro or help in any other way he could and would clearly do so to assist me in obtaining the CIA files and evidence.
6. Jaworski still had not interviewed Thompson or attempted to get the full CIA story from Thompson. The FBI agent who was to arrange a meeting has never called back.
7. The CIA has been unable to determine whether Bob Woodward was employed by the Agency. The Agency claims to be having difficulty checking personnel files. Thompson says that he believes the delay merely means that they don't want to admit that Woodward was in the Agency. Thompson wrote a lengthy memo to Baker last week complaining about the CIA's non-cooperation, the fact that they were supplying material piecemeal and had been very uncooperative. The memo went into the CIA relationship with the press, specifically Woodward. Senator Baker sent the memo directly to Colby with a cover note and within a matter of a few hours, Woodward called Baker and was incensed over the memo. It had been immediately leaked to him.